

Washington Learns

Higher Education Advisory Committee

December 19, 2005

To: Members, Higher Education Advisory Committee

From: Ann Daley, Executive Director
Washington Learns

Subject: Selection Process for RFP 06-1200

Background

The authorizing legislation for Washington Learns (E2SSB 5441) requires a comprehensive study of higher education and specifies a number of specific tasks to be addressed. These tasks were identified in RFP 06-1200, Attachment A (Scope of Work), which is attached to this memorandum.

Timing

The RFP was issued on October 31, 2005, with a proposal deadline of November 28, 2005. The contract period is expected to run from January 3, 2006 through January 31, 2007.

Selection Process

On November 28, 2005, we received three proposals in response to the RFP. Copies of these proposals were provided to an evaluation team which was composed of the following individuals:

Bruce Botka, HECB staff
Ann Daley, Washington Learns
Mary Alice Grobins, SBCTC staff
Steve Mullin, Washington Roundtable¹
Ellen O'Brien Saunders, WTECB
Dave Spangler, retired St. Martins President
Elizabeth Street, CWU
Terry Teale, COP
Marc Webster, OFM Budget staff

¹ Names in bold are members of the Higher Education Advisory Committee

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The evaluation team members each reviewed the three proposals and met together on December 1 to score the proposals awarding points as specified in the RFP. Two finalists were selected and scheduled for oral interviews on December 5, 2005. The evaluation team developed a set of questions to ask each finalist during the oral interviews. These questions are also attached for your information.

The evaluation team considered the written proposals from the two finalists fairly competitive, with the winning bidder's score only slightly higher than the other bidder that was interviewed. However, after the oral interviews, the evaluation team was unanimous in its view that one proposal was clearly superior and should be awarded the contract. This decision was made based on the strength of the team assembled to do the work, their responsiveness to the questions posed, and the quality of the written proposal and the oral interview. In addition, the winning bidder submitted the lowest cost bid of the three proposals.

And the winner is:

NORED (Northwest Education Research Center), the winning bidder, is a sole proprietorship established in Olympia, Washington in 1985. Dr. William Chance is the Executive Director and will be Project Manager for this work. His team will consist of two senior advisors (James M. Furman and Dr. Anne-Marie McCartan); two technical and data advisors (Dr. Jack Daray and Dan Keller), and five principal researchers (Dr. Donald Heller, Dr. Peter Blake, Dr. William Zumeta, Dr. Paul Sommers, and Dr. Richard Lutz). This is a strong team of experts with deep qualifications to assist Washington Learns in the task ahead. A brief description of each team member's background and experience, along with a proposed organization chart will be provided at the meeting on December 19, 2005.